



Pete Ricketts
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Jim Macy

Director

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DIRECTOR REPORT

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Make Compliance Easier for Everyone

- Provide Assistance and Training
- Go out to Nebraska, be proactive in education
- Streamline Process
- Develop Performance Goals and Objectives

Since the June EQC meeting NDEQ has had many accomplishments. Today Governor Ricketts and I announced the development and implementation of a council action you approved in June. Today we announced the Air General Permits and on line application process for Asphalt Batch plants. There are several other Air General permits in line for public notice. These actions will make it easier for businesses to apply for and receive timely permits without sacrificing environmental protection. In fact we plan to return the staff time saved through these actions to complete more assistance visits and technical assistance – to make it easy to be in compliance!

Staff has also developed another on-line application process for Construction Storm water Permits. We will be able to issue a permit in days rather than weeks. Again this is a positive step toward helping NDEQ maximize resource human resource management and to help grow Nebraska.

We also implemented a compliance determination finding sheet on September 1 that is left with facilities so they know if they are in compliance. I have traveled Nebraska extensively since the last EQC meeting and the regulated community told me resoundingly they want to know if they are in compliance.

We are taking more time to meet outside of Lincoln. Later this month we will hold two Ethanol Updates in Norfolk and Grand Island and in December a CAFO Update in Norfolk. Bringing our message and technical assistance out of the capitol city to outstate Nebraska will continue to be a fundamental goal for me.

Staff is working diligently on addressing EPA's Clean Power Plan. We are working to meet Nebraska's Carbon Reduction Strategy by meeting both with industry and environmental interests. Starting in

January we will start a public participation process. We anticipate asking for an extension of time as allowed by EPA to develop the best plan for Nebraska.

We are developing performance metrics on a monthly basis for staff and the Governor so we can measure process improvement. In January we will implement individual work plans for staff along with a new performance plan that will align agency goals and process improvement with individual performance. This process will help us better align human resources and work, so we can be more effective in helping make it easy to be in compliance in Nebraska.

Finally I want to thank NDEQ staff for quickly implementing many of these initiatives and process improvements. The staff at NDEQ is great to work with and is excited to try new ideas.

Regrettably, this will be Jay Ringenberg's last EQC meeting. I admire Jay's service to Nebraska DEQ and his wealth of knowledge will be missed as he has recently announced his retirement at the end of December.

Steve Goans will be stepping up to help manage the agency in the capacity of deputy department director.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Macy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jim Macy